

# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Wisconsin County Clerks and the Milwaukee County Election Commission  
Wisconsin Municipal Clerks and the Milwaukee City Election Commission

**FROM:** Diane Lowe, Lead Elections Specialist  
Government Accountability Board

**DATE:** November 12, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Sample Ballots for Spring Primary and Spring Election/Presidential Preference Vote

At its meeting on October 20, 2015, the Government Accountability Board approved the proposed ballot formats submitted by staff for the 2016 elections.

The following sample paper and optical scan ballots for the 2016 Spring Primary and Spring Election/Presidential Preference Vote can be found on the G.A.B. website at <http://gab.wi.gov/forms/ballots>.

### **Referendum Paper Ballot**

GAB-228 – Referendum Ballot

### **Spring Primary Paper Ballots**

GAB-208 - Spring Primary Paper Ballot (state and county)  
GAB-212 - Spring Primary Paper Ballot (city offices)  
GAB-214 - Spring Primary Paper Ballot (village office)  
GAB-216 - Spring Primary Paper Ballot (towns-numbered supervisor seats)  
GAB-217 - Spring Primary Paper Ballot (towns-unnumbered supervisor seats)  
GAB-220 - Spring Primary Paper Ballot (Town Sanitary District Commissioner)  
GAB-230 - Spring Primary Paper Ballot (multi-jurisdictional judge)  
GAB-229 – Reverse Side of Paper Ballot

Spring primary paper ballots are placed in the following, State and County ballot on top, and stapled together at the bottom.

State and County  
Multi-jurisdictional Municipal Judge  
Municipal  
Sanitary District  
School District  
Referendum

A consolidated paper ballot may also be used.

### **Spring Primary Optical Scan Ballots**

*Oval and Arrow Versions are posted*

- GAB - 208mtu Spring Primary OS Ballot (towns-unnumbered supervisor seats) -
- GAB - 208mtn Spring Primary OS Ballot (towns-numbered supervisor seats)
- GAB - 208mv Spring Primary OS Ballot (village offices)
- GAB - 208mc Spring Primary OS Ballot (city offices)

Sample ballots should be modified so that any office not requiring a primary is eliminated from the primary ballot.

### **Spring Election Paper Ballots**

- GAB - 209 Spring Election Paper Ballot (state and county)
- GAB - 213 Spring Election Paper Ballot (city offices)
- GAB - 215 Spring Election Paper Ballot (village offices)
- GAB - 218 Spring Election Paper Ballot (towns-numbered supervisor seats)
- GAB - 219 Spring Election Paper Ballot (towns-unnumbered supervisor seats)
- GAB - 221 Spring Election Paper Ballot (Town Sanitary District Commissioner)
- GAB - 231 Spring Election Paper Ballot (multijurisdictional municipal judge)
- GAB - 229 Reverse Side of Paper Ballot

Spring election paper ballots are placed in the following, State and County ballot on top, and stapled together at the bottom.

State and County  
Multi-jurisdictional Municipal Judge  
Municipal  
Sanitary District  
School District  
Referendum

A consolidated paper ballot may also be used.

### **Presidential Preference Paper Ballots**

- GAB - 204 Presidential Preference Ballot\*
- GAB – 204i Presidential Preference Instruction Cover Sheet

**\* There must be a separate GAB-204 paper ballot for each party.** *Both parties may not appear on one paper ballot.* Using a consolidated paper ballot at a partisan primary poses too much risk for crossover voting, with no way to notify voters of a crossover error.

The presidential preference ballots are stapled together at the bottom with the cover sheet on top, followed by the Republican ballot, followed by the Democratic ballot.

### **Spring Election and Presidential Preference Optical Scan Ballots**

*Oval and Arrow Versions are posted*

- GAB - 209mtu Spring Election/Presidential Preference Vote OS Ballot  
(towns-unnumbered supervisor seats)
- GAB - 209mtn Spring Election/Presidential Preference Vote OS Ballot  
(towns-numbered supervisor seats)
- GAB - 209mv Spring Election/Presidential Preference Vote OS Ballot (village offices)
- GAB - 209mc Spring Election/Presidential Preference Vote OS Ballot (city offices)

### **Special Notes**

- *Placement and format of the office of multi-jurisdictional municipal judge* can be found on the sample optical scan ballots with village offices, GAB-208mv and GAB-209mv.
- *Placement and format of the office of Sanitary District Commissioner* can be found on the sample optical scan primary ballots for towns with unnumbered seats, GAB-208mtn.
- *There are two versions of the GAB-209 Optical scan ballots--*The Government Accountability Board reviewed two versions of the optical scan ballot for the Spring Election—one that contains a party preference selection for the Presidential Preference Vote and one that does not. After discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each format, the Board voted to give discretion to the county clerk to determine which format will be used in his or her county. Please note: Depending on your voting equipment or compilation software, the format *without* the party Preference Selection may not be an option. Please discuss these options with your ballot preparer or equipment programmer. **The GAB-209mc Oval labeled “w/o party pref” is the only example of this format.**

### **Presidential Preference Absentee Ballots for Military and Overseas Voters**

Municipal clerks are required to send a Presidential Preference Absentee Ballot to military and permanent overseas voters with an absentee ballot request on file no later than February 18, 2016 (47 days before the April 5 election). Presidential Preference ballots are official ballots listing only the office of President. If the request is made after February 18, the ballots must be sent within one day of the request. A sample Presidential Preference Vote ballot for this purpose (GAB-204) is located at <http://gab.wi.gov/forms/ballots>.

Ballot order for the Presidential Preference Ballot will be known no sooner than January 26, 2016. January 26<sup>th</sup> is the last day a candidate chosen for the ballot may file a disclaimer with the G.A.B. to remove his or her name from the ballot, and the last day for a person whose name was not chosen to petition the G.A.B. for placement on the Presidential Preference ballot. County Clerks must prepare this ballot and deliver it to the municipal clerks no later than February 17, 2016.

Paper, hand-count ballots are fine for this purpose. The Presidential Preference Vote is a partisan primary. Therefore, **separate Republican and Democratic ballots must be used.** The presidential preference ballots are stapled together at the bottom with the cover sheet on top, followed by the Republican ballot, followed by the Democratic ballot. You may not use a consolidated ballot for this

purpose. However, if your municipality uses optical scan equipment, and you would rather print the Presidential Preference ballot as an optical scan-style ballot so that your equipment can be programmed to read it, you may do so.

When the official Spring Election and Presidential Preference Ballots are prepared, municipal clerks will send military voters, who were previously sent a Presidential Preference-only ballot, an official ballot. Permanent overseas voters may only vote for national office. Therefore, they do not receive a second ballot.

A future communication will address this procedure in greater detail.

If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please contact the Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or [gabhelpdesk@wi.gov](mailto:gabhelpdesk@wi.gov).